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William S Van Allen 04/16/2002 03:50:43 PM From DB/Inbox: William S Van Allen

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TELEGRAM

April 16, 2002

To: ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS - IMMEDIATE
Origin: IRM
From: SECSTATE WASHDC (STATE 72076 - IMMEDIATE)
TAGS: PREL, PINS, AEMR, MARR, CASC, VE
Captions: None
Subject: TFVE01 SITUATION REPORT NO. 006 AS OF 1530 EDT TUESDAY,
APRIL 16, 2002
Ref: None

Classified by PTChicola, Coordinator. REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

EMBASSY UPDATE

1. (SBU) Embassy reports that Caracas is back to normal. People are back to work, and traffic is miserable as usual. American schools are open. No reports of looting overnight. PDVSA workers have also returned to work. Police/National Guard presence is also back to normal. The road to the airport is clear, and the airport is operating. Public transport to the airport is available. American Airlines, Continental, and Aeropostal are operating flights. Delta and United flights are cancelled. (TF/Embassy Caracas telcon and e-mail, TF/American Airlines telcon).

OAS MISSION ARRIVES IN CARACAS

2. (C) OAS Secretary General Gaviria, who arrived in Caracas yesterday, expressed support for the constitutional government in Venezuela. WHA posts will demarche host governments April 16 on the need to increase support for democracy in Venezuela and to urge participation by Foreign Ministers in the OASGA scheduled for April 18. (TF/Embassy Caracas telcon, State 71650).

CARMONA UNDER HOUSE ARREST

3. (U) Pedro Carmona, the businessman who headed the short-lived transitional government, has been charged for attempted coup and is under 30-day house arrest while the Supreme Court investigates. (TF/Embassy Caracas telcon).

IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF CHAVEZ'S RETURN

4. (U) Havoc in financial markets continues as the uncertainty of the political situation sent the bolivar 5 percent lower to 860.25 to the dollar on April 15. Venezuela's stock market, the IBC closed more than 8 percent lower on April 15. Chavez's return has also sent oil prices sharply higher. (BBC News).

TASK FORCE DISBANDED

5. (SBU) At 10:30 AM Venezuela Task Force Director, Phil Chicola, informed posts and WHA that task force was disbanding.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
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